

NPS Wildland Fire Funding Sources for Cultural Resources

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The following information is current as of Fall 2012. Wildland Fire Management Business Rules are updated annually so you should check with your park or regional fire program managers for updates. You can also find the full text of the current business rules by following the link: [Wildland Fire Budget Business Rules](#), and selecting the folder for the current fiscal year.

Wildland Fire Preparedness

Preparedness funds may be used to pay for

- Programmatic planning and compliance activities (e.g. Wildland Fire Management Plans and related environmental and cultural compliance).
- Limited and focused studies or surveys necessary for the implementation of wildland fire management program activities.

There is not a dedicated fund source for program planning and compliance. Funds may be requested through the NPS Servicewide Comprehensive Call starting in FY2013, but no funding is set aside to implement those requests. Funding for program planning and compliance activities normally come out of limited individual park support, lapse or similar sources. ONPS funding may also be used to support all fire planning and compliance activities.

Wildfire Suppression

Suppression incident funds may be used to pay for

- Line archeologists to clear ground disturbing fireline activity, work ahead of dozers, clear proposed fire camp sites, clear proposed helispots, etc.
- To protect or mitigate known cultural resources from fire impact, or those discovered in the course of incident management activity.
- To mitigate the immediate and direct impacts of fire control activities.

Suppression funding covers all wildfire incidents regardless of objectives or strategies.

Emergency Stabilization

Emergency Stabilization (ES) funds may be used to pay for

- assessments* for known or incidentally discovered sites (such as discovered during line building).
- post-fire cultural resource assessments* to determine if further emergency stabilization action is warranted.
- To stabilize known or incidentally discovered sites from further post-fire induced degradation such as increased erosion.
- To patrol, camouflage, and bury significant heritage sites to prevent looting of fire exposed sites (e.g. the brush cover is now gone).

Emergency stabilization funds will *not* pay for systematic surveys to discover new sites *unless* the surveys are necessary for compliance to clear post-fire land disturbing treatments (such as installation of erosion control structures as part of an approved post-fire plan).

*Note: Emergency Stabilization funds cannot be used to pay for site investigations (e.g. excavations), which is a nuanced interpretation of ‘assessments’ for non-cultural resource specialists.

Burned Area Rehabilitation

Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) funds are only used to conduct compliance surveys for BAR-funded land disturbing treatments. (Also see NPS Archeology Program guidance document “**The NPS Post-Wildfire Program and Cultural Resources**” ([link to document](#)) for more information about applying for BAR funding.)

Fuel Reduction Projects

Fuels project funds may be used to

- Conduct pre-treatment clearance prior to ground disturbing activity along or within the perimeter of the project area (e.g. fireline construction).
- Conduct pre and post-treatment survey of known sites within the project perimeter (e.g. to plan mitigation actions and ensure mitigation actions were successful).
- Put measures in place to mitigate potential damage to known sites or sites discovered incidental to treatment unit preparation (e.g. wrap cabins with heat reflecting foil, develop fireline to exclude cultural resources, install sprinkler systems to prevent ignition, clear fuels adjacent to rock art panel, etc.)
- Support other reasonable project or program cultural resource compliance activities directly related to the implementation of the fuels program as negotiated or required by the State or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.